

REMARKS

Pending in the present application were claims 1-18 and 21-23, of which claims 1, 9, 15 and 21 are independent claims. In the Office Action, claims 15-18 were indicated to be allowable, while claims 1-8 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Koike (U.S. 6,177,207) and claims 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hoshi et al. (U.S. 6,025,978). With this Amendment, independent claims 1, 9 and 21 are amended. In reliance on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the present application containing claims 1-18 and 21-23 is in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, and 21 have been amended to traverse the 102(b) rejections based on Koike and Hoshi et al. Claims 1, 9 and 21 have been amended such that each claim requires a perpendicular writing main pole configured for producing a magnetic field that causes perpendicular writing. Koike does not anticipate claims 1 and 21, and Hoshi et al. does not anticipate claim 9, as neither Koike nor Hoshi et al. discloses, teaches, or suggests a perpendicular writing main pole configured for producing a magnetic field that causes perpendicular writing. Claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable therewith. Claims 10-14 depend from independent claim 9 and are allowable therewith. And claims 22 and 23 depend from independent claim 21 and are allowable therewith. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the combinations of features recited in claims 2-8, 10-14, 22 and 23 are independently patentable, although this does not need to be specifically addressed herein since any claim depending from a patentable independent claim is also patentable. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2143.03 (citing *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d (BNA) 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). The Office Action indicated that claims 15-18 were in allowable form. Therefore, all pending claims 1-18 and 21-23 are now in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

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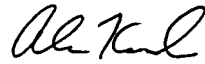
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